

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, April 13. 1708.

MISCELLANEA.

THE Answering of Questions, and particularly the wild Fancies of our amorous mad Men, is a Thing I have declin'd of late, and it seems a new Oracle for those Delusions is erected; I am sure, I do not at all envy them the Employment; But here is a dainty Fellow that has invited me to speak to him, and I must not refuse him.

Mr. REVIEW,

" I Esteem you a Man of good Sence, tho'
 " I can't agree with you in your Phana-
 " tical Principles; but howsoever I have a
 " melancholly Love Story to acquaint you,

" if you think fit to give me an Answer,
 " your Advice I shall follow: When I was
 " about thirty Years of Age, I waited on a
 " near Relation, with a hearty Desire to
 " make her my Wife; but, for our Near-
 " ness of Kin, *Doctors-Commons* nor the
 " *Bishops* would not allow of it, tho' we
 " both earnestly desir'd it; we spar'd no
 " Cost in Hopes to make us both as happy
 " as we desir'd; but as the *Bishops* nor
 " *Doctors Commons* would give us no Re-
 " lief, but on the contrary gave us Threats
 " of Excommunication, and such like Sort
 " of Spiritual Court Punishments, We
 " both resolv'd to make our Lives as easie
 " as

"as possible without Matrimony, and live
 "as if marry'd in every Particular, ex-
 "cepting Carnal Knowledge; this we
 "both gave each other our Oath to con-
 "tinue until Death; this Life we liv'd
 "many Years to the full Satisfaction of
 "both, and Envy of many that knew us,
 "who esteem'd us marry'd, for we never
 "had Words, no Mis-understandings, no
 "Jarrs, for whatsoever we ask'd of each
 "other was answer'd mutually with an ob-
 "liging Compliance; but in the midst of
 "this Happiness it pleas'd GOD in five
 "Hours Time to destroy the best Part of
 "my Estate, which reduc'd it as much be-
 "low hers, as it was before larger, tho'
 "hers by the same Calamity suffer'd, tho'
 "not near so much in Proportion; for mine
 "was so great, that I was forc'd by Officers
 "to Newgate, and from thence elsewhere,
 "until I could sell Part of my real Estate
 "to pay my Debts; when I was so a Pri-
 "soner, this Lady thought I was quite
 "ruin'd, upon which she began to slight
 "me; every Favour I ask'd was refused,
 "tho' the Greatest was but to come to see
 "me; but she had always an Excuse, but
 "still my Love was constant to her, that
 "by an extravagant Charge I waited on
 "her daily, tho' I could see Uneasiness in
 "her Face at my Entrance of her House;
 "but howsoever at last I got out of my
 "Broils, and have a moderate Estate left,
 "she continues with the same Slight to
 "to my Person, esteeming me below her.
 "I would fain know of you what Treatment
 "I ought to give her; I can ruin her Estate
 "at my Pleasure, as well as her Reputation,
 "or I can make her own House, or the
 "Mouset of all her Friends too hot to hold
 "her; but she is one I love, and so I
 "do the whole Family, so can't hurt her
 "that way; but I had rather take an Op-
 "portunity to shoot her through the Head,
 "and at the same time serve my self in the
 "same Manner, that I may die fulfilling
 "my Oaths I gave her; but I would have
 "your Opinion, whether there may be
 "Hopes, that GOD Almighty out of
 "his Infinite Mercies and Justice would
 "forgive us; Her for the Breach of Oath,

"Mine for her Murder: Or if I should let
 "her remain and live as she does, whether
 "'tis possible for her to die with a safe Con-
 "science, without asking GOD Pardon for
 "living in a known Breach of her Oath,
 "and without making me some Sort of
 "Satisfaction, by asking my Pardon, or whe-
 "ther her Ingratitude and Slight gives me
 "a good Discharge from my Oath to marry
 "another, or if you esteem none of these
 "Measures. Pray give me your Advice
 "how to behave my self to Her, and really
 "what in Severity she deserves.

Yours, &c.

It must be remark'd, that this Person is
 no Dissenter, that he declares himself; but
 as to Phanatical Principles I leave all the
 World to determine, which are worst, His
 or Mine—But that by the by.

Now what is it, Sir, upon the Relation
 of this wild Story that you would be satisf-
 y'd in, for I must sum up the Fact to draw
 up the Conclusion?

First, Sir, you commenc'd an unlawful
 Love, for you allow it was not a Love of
 Friendship, but a Love of Sexes, and it ap-
 pears to be an incestuous Passion, since the
 Law, which you wrongfully call Doctors-Com-
 mons and the Bishops, would not permit you
 to marry; nay the Incest was committed by
 your own Confession, for you say, both ear-
 nestly desir'd it, which in Scripture Sense
 is actual Guilt—— Nay, you desir'd it
 notwithstanding its being unlawful, for you
 stood in it till Threats of Excommunication
 and Spiritual Court Punishments restrain'd
 you.

Well, being restrain'd by this Force, you
 still maintain the Affection, how honestly
 as to the Flesh you best know, I am oblig'd
 to hope you did, because you say so——
 Then you resolve to live together, tho'
 single and unmarried, and swear to con-
 tinue this till Death——In short you have
 sworn never to marry.

Time and different Circumstances have
 cool'd this Flame, and you find your self
 slighted, as indeed you have great Reason
 to expect you should, since Things unlaw-
 ful, and whose Foundation is vicious, will
 have

have no longer Duration, than while the Causes of them last; and when either the Lust, or the Self-Interest, or the rash Passion ceases, the Affection must wear off, and be cloy'd of Course; for no Love can continue constant, but that which being founded upon Merit in the Person Loved, and Vertue in the Person Loving, has both a Right Beginning and a proper Object, both perhaps, are suggested at first, but as the Delusion wears off, the Affection dwindles into Aversion.

Well, and so it is here; and now the Experiment is made, the Ignorance discovers it self— And you would be told what you should do? Truly, 'tis easie to tell you what you should do; but first let us see, what your own native Madness, *the same that prompted this Folly*, dictates to you.

It seems by your Letter, the Woman has seen her Folly first, and she begins to hate you, that is, begins to come to her Senses; but YOU neither by the Fire that consum'd your Estate, the Prison that mortify'd your Person, nor the good Providence that has left you something to live on, yet reclaim'd; that is, in short neither by Judgments or Mercies to be made better, continue your Crime—Nay increase it, and meditate, doubling your Wickedness by adding Blood to Incest, and Self-murder to all the rest; a few Remarks on the Story will conclude my Advice as well as Reproof to you.

1. This is an excellent Proof to you of your continuing to love, that you can think of murdering the Person.
2. It might convince you, that the whole Transaction has been of Hell, since the Devil alone continues to be your Counsellor.
3. It is a just Reproof to your Folly, that the Sights of the Party, and the Ground of it, which you say are wholly Mercenary, should not direct you to give her a suitable Return.

As to the OATH.

1. You ought to have given me the Form of it, and the Circumstances and

Manner of taking it; otherwise it is impossible to enter into the Particulars of it, as to the Lawfulness of it— If it was an Oath to perform an unlawful Contract, or do an unlawful Action, you ought to ask God's Pardon for making it, and forthwith break it, the Obligation ceasing in it self.

2. If it was a reciprocal Contract in its Nature, it supposes your Fidelity, so long as the continued oblig'd by the other Part of it, and the Obligation being broken on one Part, discharges the other, and dissolves its Force, as in all mutual Contracts is suppos'd.
3. But if you have sworn positively that you will never marry, without any Limitation or any Room to retrieve if she should marry, or break with you, to remain unmarried, is not an unlawful Action, and I see no Room to break your Fetters, you must keep it— And this is my Reason indeed, why I answer the Question, that your Story, whether Real or a Fiction, may be a *Memento Mori* to those who vow rashly, and then want to break the Bonds, their Folly has made; *Jephthah's Vow* was rash, but still he found himself bound to keep it, and GOD may require the rash Oath to be observ'd, as a just Correction to those that make it; and this is my direct Answer to the Case of the Oath.

As to the Woman and your Behaviour to Her, if you please to hearken to some of my Phanatical Instructions, they are as follow,

1. Ask the Christian with her, and send her a serious honest Exhortation, to reflect, how much She and You have to repent of; and whether you ever agree in anything else, desire her to join with you, in seriously asking GOD Forgiveness for your incestuous Wickedness.
2. Furnish your Mind with Reasons Artillery to batter her Insults, and declaring War against her Crimes, learn to return an equal Contempt to her Person;

Person; for he has no Notion of Love, that cannot condemn when he is slighted.

And thus, Brother Phanatick, I think, I have honestly answer'd your Letter.



ADVERTISEMENT S.

THE Famous LOZENGES being effectual in all Scorbutick Cases; they ease Pains in the Head and Stomach, cause a good Appetite, purify the Blood, and give speedy Relief in Rheumatisms, Dropsie, and Gout, and totally destroy the very Seed of Worms.

They cure Agues and Fevers of all Sorts, give present Ease in the Cholick, Stone and Gravel, cleanse the Body after hard Drinking; as also after the Small-Pox, Measles, and Child-bearing, and are a more general Cathartick Medicine than any yet known.

Prepar'd only by R. Owner, Apothecary, at the Pestle and Mortar, in East Smithfield.

PEPTIGON, an unparallel'd Medicine, to help a weak Digestion, and procure an Appetite, absolutely cures Hecticks, Consumptions, Asthma's, shortness of Breath, Ulcers and Stappings of the Lungs, restoring the radical moisture, extinguishing and allaying all preternatural Heats and Thirst, sudden flushing in the Hands and Face, Vapours, &c. to admiration, removes all Obstructions in the Liver, Spleen, &c. purifies the Blood, and renovates the whole Body by replenishing the Blood and Juices, with the True and Natural Balsamick Sulphur of Life, is approved and commended by the most sensible and knowing Physicians and Philosophers, particularly the famous Helmont. Is now removed and Sold only at Mr. Lawrence's Toy-Shop at the Sign of the Griffin the corner of the Poultry near Bucklers-Berry at 2 s. 6 d. a bottle with Directions.

BARTLETT's Inventions for the Cure of Rupture, which have gain'd So Universal Esteem, are now, yet farther Improv'd to so great a Nicety, that one of his Steel Spring Trusses of the largest Size, seldom Exceeds 4 ounces in Weight, and one of the smallest rarely exceeds a quarter of an Ounce, and are so well adapted to the shapes of human Bodies, that they are extraordinary easy even to Infants of a Day Old, and Intirely keep up the Ruptures of what Bigness soever. Also divers Instruments to help the Weak and Crooked. By P. Bartlett at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Prescot Street in Goodmans Fields, London.

NOTE, He forges and finishes his Trusses himself, by which means he daily Improves his Inventions.

Thomas Pritchard, at the Saracens-Head in Little Carter Lane, near St. Paul's, London, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. Bartlett, at the Golden Ball in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields, London, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprise, and my Son has remain'd well ever since.

This is to give Notice, that I Richard Baker, of Lawrence-Poltsney Lane, Cannonstreet, London, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at last I apply'd my self to the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, at the Golden Ball by the Tavern in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Trusses and Rupture Spirits, with the Blessing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever since, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son P. Bartlett lives at the same Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the same Business, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Educated therein.